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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/092,560	03/08/2002	Ernesto E. Blanco	217395US25CIP	2081
22850 7590 10/09/2009 OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, L.L.P. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
EXAMINER				
MOULTON, ELIZABETH ROSE				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3767				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
10/09/2009		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/092,560

Applicant(s)

BLANCO, ERNESTO E.

Examiner

ELIZABETH R. MOULTON

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Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 June 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 32, 33, 212-215, and 223 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 32, 33, 212-215 and 223 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. Claims 1-4, 32, 33, 212-215, 223 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The specification does not teach that the edge angle of the guard at a tip end portion thereof is smaller than the blade edge angle. The tip end portion is rounded, Fig 24.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-4, 32, 33, 212-215, and 223 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Danks (US 5,868,773, "773") in view of Danks (5,607,440, "440").

Danks '773 teaches a surgical device comprising a handle (40) configured to be gripped; a cylinder penetrator which includes a cannula (18) and a slideable member (15) slidably mounted in the cannula; and a substantially planar blade (81) mounted on

the cannula; and a guard (51) mounted on the slidable member. As to claim 223, see insufflation passageway (14). Figs 2A and 5A-5D.

Danks '773 does not teach a cutting blade with an edge angle smaller than the edge angle of the guard.

Danks '440 shows a trocar cutting blade (81) and a shield (15), which has a smaller edge angle than the cutting blade in plan view (Fig 7A-9B). The guard has upper (distal end of the blade) and lower (proximal end of the blade) surfaces are "substantially planar" see "there is a slight concavity 94 as the distal end 51 of the shield 15 proceeds from the blunt end 92 to a shoulder 93."

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the shield and blade shapes of Danks '440 with the trocar of Danks '773 in order to provide a trocar wherein "it is possible for the blunt end 92 to cover the pointed distal end 87 of the blade 81 so that no additional penetration is possible, while still leaving portions of the sharpened edges 91 exposed. In this fashion, when the pointed distal end 87 of the blade 81 has penetrated the body cavity wall, but before the blade 81 is entirely through the wall, the blunt end 92 of the shield can move forward and be partially locked while still allowing the sharpened edges 91 of the pointed blade 81 to expand the incision in the body cavity wall so that the obturator and cannula may be introduced to communicate with the body cavity."

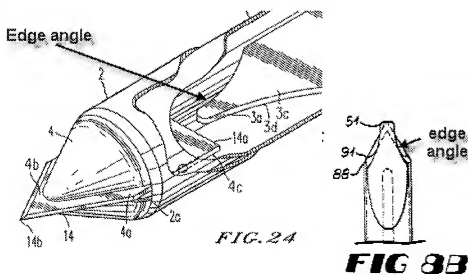
Furthermore, the applicant has not disclosed that a planar GUARD serves any specific purpose or solves a stated problem. The specification repeatedly refers to a planar

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BLADE creating a straight incision in the body, but never identifies the guard as performing this function.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments are not persuasive. The guard is "substantially" planar along both sides. The examiner considers the disclosed "slight concavity" to be *substantially* planar. By simple comparison of applicant's figures and Dank's figures, one can see that the shape of the edge angles are identical:



4.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ELIZABETH R. MOULTON whose telephone number is (571)272-9970. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00-3:30 M-Th.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Simons can be reached on (571) 272-4965. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/ELIZABETH R MOULTON/

Examiner, Art Unit 3767

/Kevin C. Simmons/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3767